

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DPW-01 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 068495

R 280939Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: THAI-NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

REF: A. BANGKOK 8900; B. BANGKOK 9575

1. THE SAME KEY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED THAI-DRV RELATIONS ON MAY 31 (REF A) TOLD US JUNE 27 THAT THE RTG HAD MADE NO PROGRESS IN TRYING TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH HANOI. HE REITERATED HIS THEORY THAT A POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO GO AROUND THE CURRENT POLEMICAL BARRIERS THAT SEPARATE THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND USE A FRESH APPROACH SUCH AS AN OFFER OF ECONOMIC AID.

2. WE ASKED ABOUT A JUNE 26 HEADLINE ARTICLE IN "THE NATION" WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE NEW THAI AMBASSADOR TO LAOS WOULD BE APPROACHING THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT RELEASING "THE ESTIMATED 640 THAI PRISONERS OF WAR IN LAOS." THE OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THIS REPORT AS PRESS IMITATION OF WESTERN CONCERN OVER PRISONERS OF WAR. HE SAID THAT AMERICANS VALUED INDIVIDUAL LIFE MUCH MORE HIGHLY
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THAN ASIANS, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PRISONERS OF WAR WERE

A PRIME DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE U.S. HE IMPLIED THAT THE THAI AMBASSADOR IN VIENTIANE DID NOT HAVE THIS ITEM AT THE TOP OF HIS AGENDA.

3. HE FURTHER CONTENDED THAT HANOI REALIZED THE EMOTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ISSUE FOR AMERICANS AND PLAYED IT UP IN THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS. PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR OWN POW'S IN LAOS, HE DID NOT SUSPECT THAT NORTH VIETNAM WOULD PLAY THAI PRISONERS AS A NEGOTIATION ISSUE WITH THAILAND, SHOULD THE TWO COUNTRIES EVER GET TOGETHER FOR TAKS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD REALIZE THAT FELLOW ASIANS SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIVE TO IT.

KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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